

Remarks

Claims 57-65 were rejected on the grounds of non-obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of US Patent No. 6,870,996. While not conceding the merits of the rejection and solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution, applicants are filing herewith a terminal disclaimer over US-B-6,870,996 to obviate the rejection. Applicants, therefore, request withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Claims 57-65 were rejected on the grounds of non-obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 11-20 of copending Patent Application No. 10/980,097. While not conceding the merits of the rejection and solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution, applicants are filing herewith a terminal disclaimer over Patent Application No. 10/980,097 to obviate the rejection. Applicants request withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Claims 57-64 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Boschelli et al. (US Patent No. 6,780,996). Applicants have submitted herewith Declaration of Diane H. Boschelli which provides evidence of the conception and reduction to practice of the invention of Claims 57-64 prior to April 30, 2002. Accordingly this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 65 was rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious in light of Boschelli. Claim 65 was cancelled. Accordingly this rejection is moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully maintain that Claims 57-65 are in condition ready for Allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable Notice of Allowance.



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